

## Patent Claims

1. A method for testing subscriber access lines (TL) together with an associated subscriber line circuit (SLC) and a connected subscriber terminal of a digital telecommunications system, in which a digital signal processor is provided on a subscriber-line-specific basis or at least for a small group of subscriber line circuits and provides subscriber line functions related to the telecommunications traffic, with this digital signal processor also carrying out a number of different test functions in order to identify malfunctions virtually all the time, automatically and successively, characterized in that test result data determined locally in this way are gathered at a central point while observing specific selection criteria and, in specific requirement situations, are transmitted to specific locations in the subscriber access area with which the subscriber access lines are associated.

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2. The method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that test result data gathered at a central point (ET) are transmitted to a location at which defect-rectification measures are currently being carried out, provided they relate to the geographical area of interest at this point.

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3. The method as claimed in claim 1 or 2, characterized in that the transmission of test result data is limited to those items which originated close in time to the time at which the defect-rectification measures were carried out.

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4. The method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that if the test results indicate the presence of faults, fault signaling relating to the occurrence or other existence of a telecommunications connection is supplied to the relevant telecommunications subscribers.

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5. The method as claimed in claim 4, characterized in that, in the case of an outgoing telecommunications connection, the fault signaling takes place during the occurrence of the dialing tone.

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6. The method as claimed in claim 4, characterized in that, in the case of an incoming telecommunications connection, the fault signaling is in the form of an announcement, with a conference connection being set up  
10 for this purpose, in which the institution emitting the fault message is included.